

Brooklyn Park Charter Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

7:30 p.m. Brooklyn Township Conference Room

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Dwight Cox called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Members present were: Arlene Breckenridge (arrived at 7:55 p.m.); Dwight Cox; Wokie Freeman; Dennis Gunther; Marjorie Lindberg; and Olajide Williams (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Absent: Christopher Bohler (Excused); Mike Habiba

Also in attendance: Council Liaison Steve Lampi (arrived at 7:40 p.m.) and Staff Liaison Devin Montero.

2. Additions/Approval of Agenda of January 13, 2010

Motion Marjorie Lindberg and seconded by Wokie Freeman to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the September 9, 2009 Minutes.

Motion Marjorie Lindberg and seconded by Olajide Williams to approve the September, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Old Business

4.1 Commission Orientation Video. The Commissioners viewed the commission orientation video.

5. Reports of Offices, Boards, and Standing Committees.

5.1 Treasurer's Report. Chair Cox gave the Treasurer's Report and stated no expenses were accrued for 2009.

6. New Business

6.1 Annual Report (Draft). The Commissioners reviewed the draft of the Annual Report and recommended some changes.

Motion Marjorie Lindberg, seconded by Wokie Freeman to approve the Annual Report as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Review of By-Laws. The Commissioners reviewed the By-Laws with no changes recommended.

Motion Arlene Breckenridge, seconded by Marjorie Lindberg to approve the By-Laws as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6.3 Charter Commission Meeting Dates. The Commissioners reviewed the meeting dates. Chair Cox asked the commissioners if the meeting dates should be quarterly. It was the consensus of the commission to keep the monthly meetings in the event issues are presented to the Charter to discuss.

6.4 Discussion of Council Members as City Employees

Discussions were held on Section 2.05, Incompatible Offices, whether a council member could be employed by the city, a question given to the Charter Commission at the annual joint city council and commission meeting in June 2009.

Commissioners discussed the Attorney General opinion given in February 2005 and the Charter amendment as the result of the opinion and council members dealing with a conflict of interest by abstaining from voting as stated in the City Charter and Elected Officials Rules of Procedures and Code of Conduct; and state law superseding the city charter;

- City Charter Section 3.04, Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions:

“Any member of the Council who, being present when his/her name is called, fails to vote upon any of the pending ordinances, resolutions and motions shall be counted as having voted in the negative except as provided in Section 14.03 of this Charter or unless the council member affirmatively states that he or she is abstaining from voting.”

- Elected Officials Rules of Procedures and Code of Conduct, 4.3 Discussions and Debate:

“When a conflict of interest arises, the Council member shall abstain from the vote and be available for comment from the podium only.”

Motion Dennis Gunther and seconded by Arlene Breckenridge to leave it as is because the State ruling superseded the city ruling and let the process that was done in 2005 continue. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Correspondence/Communications

7.1 Ordinance #2009-1103 (Assessment of Unpaid Administrative Penalties)

Staff Liaison Montero stated Ordinance #2009-1103 amended the city code relating to administrative penalties as the result of the Charter amendment to Charter Section 14.19.

7.2 Redistricting Timetable for 2010 and 2000 Census Information

Staff Liaison Montero presented the 2010 redistricting timetable and stated the district and precinct boundaries were frozen as of January and also commented on what happened during the redistricting in 2000 when a Central Council member's residence was redistricted into the East District.

7.3 City Council's Strategic Goals-Update on Work Plans

Staff Liaison Montero briefed the Commission members on the Council's annual retreat, vision statement and strategic goals. He also stated that the strategic goals were assigned team leaders on implementing the goals and provided the commission the strategic goals updates given to Council at the December 21, 2009 Council meeting. Chair Cox also reported that representatives from each of the Commissions were invited to attend the City Council Retreat on Friday January 15. He stated he would not be able to attend but Vice Chair Marjorie Lindberg would be attending.

8. Adjournment

Motion Arlene Breckenridge and seconded by Wokie Freeman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Devin Montero, Staff Liaison